

Walkscapes

Redefining the path network in Emscher Landscape Park

P4 Reflection

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Reflection

Graduation it's my first attempt to do such a long term project which covers every aspects from research to design, from which I gained not only professional knowledge, but also lessons about life.

Lessons learned as a professional

1. Working through scales
In TU Delft, 'working through scales' is one of the most frequently used 'brain wash' concept. I didn't manage to work with it well in the first year. What I learned in Graduation Studio is that the emphasis on different scales can be different. When working with large scales, it's important to stress the pattern of groups, instead of individuals.

2. Landscape as palimpsest
Landscape is never a piece of blank paper. I knew it's important to work with context, but quite often I only worked with what is visible. In Design With Natural Process, I was forced to work with the invisible underlying layer. Though I haven't cooperate with the underlying parts very well yet, I'm glad that I took it into account.

3. Evidence-based design
The amount of academic books and articles I read during the past semester might be larger than the sum of all the academic writings I read before. My mentors recommended a lot of relevant materials, which made me realized that most of my concerns

had been investigated by someone else. Through readings, I got a lot of guidelines for my design. I've also looked up to many precedent projects. By observing existing patterns, I had a deeper understanding about the how users use the designed landscapes.

4. Be emotionally involved
There was once I got stuck with theories and logic. Then my second started to ask my experience of daily life. "Why do you go to a park? What do you do there?" These questions awaked me. Too much rational thinking might make me keep a distance from layman experience, though I aim to improve the layman experience.

Lessons learned as a person

1. Live with uncertainty
Whenever I start a project, I always hope I can make an efficient plan and just execute it, so that everything is under control. However, I realized that it's unrealistic to work like this when one is dealing with unfamiliar works. The exploration process can be blurry. And errors are inevitable. I can actually just accept the blurry moments as they are, and try to improve the work time and time again.

2. Learn from peers
Besides me, there's only one more student who is graduating with my main mentor. Since we have